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**DRAFT**  
4 DEC 1985

The Honorable Jack Brooks, Chairman  
Committee on Government Operations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 26 November 1985 concerning the use of polygraph examinations with respect to four individuals, all of whom were engaged in intelligence, counterintelligence or espionage. [With all due respect to you and your Committee, and recognizing your Committee's jurisdiction responsibility for general oversight of the use of the polygraph by Federal agencies,] the specifics of your request raise serious concerns regarding how best to serve your needs, those of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and my own statutory responsibilities for the protection of intelligence sources and methods.

The four individuals involved were all engaged in intelligence or counterintelligence at the time they were examined using the polygraph. The questions, notes and other documentation used in those examinations contain a great deal of sensitive information which is classified. These materials also contain a good deal of personal information about the subjects which is protected by Federal law from public disclosure. Additionally, the particular method of using the polygraph in some aspects of these investigations is considered by this Agency to be an intelligence method which I am required to protect from disclosure. Finally, I firmly believe that the disclosure of any individual polygraph examination of any employee or past employee of this Agency would seriously damage the effectiveness of the Central Intelligence Agency's personnel security program.

I assume that the interest of your Committee is in the use of the polygraph as a device to assist in determining truth and not in the intelligence and counterintelligence information resulting therefrom. I am required by law to protect intelligence information from anyone who does not have a need to

know it. I am, therefore, most willing to make available to your Committee such information about the general use of the polygraph by this Agency provided this can be done in closed sessions with necessary security protection for the information provided. Such a presentation will exclude all intelligence and counterintelligence data.

If this arrangement is acceptable to your Committee, we will proceed to prepare for an initial meeting with your Committee at a mutually acceptable date. [I will be happy to discuss this further if you so desire.]

Sincerely,

William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence